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Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03195

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, SY, GW
SUBJECT: DEUTSCHE-TEXACO CLAIM AGAINST SARG

REF: (A) BONN 2765, (B) DAMASCUS 1064, (C) STATE 16680

1. EMBOFF AND HENZE, DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST OFFICE IN ECONMIN, MET WITH GABRIEL AND LUERS OF GERMAN TEXACO, AT LATTERS' REQUEST, TO DISCUSS DEUTSCHE-TEXACO CLAIM. GABRIEL AND LUERS HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH BOECKER, HEAD OF MIDDLE EAST SECTION IN FORMIN. HENZE BEGAN BY OFFERING HIS ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN DAMASCUS. THIS ACCOUNT PARALLELED WHAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD EMBOFF (REF A). GABRIEL RECOUNTED BOECKER'S REPORT ON THE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WAS SIMILAR TO REF B.

2. THE SITUATION, AS NOW UNDERSTOOD BY GABRIEL, LUERS, BOECKER, HENZE, AND EMBOFF, IS THE FOLLOWING: THE SARG IS WILLING TO CONSIDER THE CLAIM OF DEUTSCHE-TEXACO. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WILL PREPARE WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED BY KHADDAM (REF B) OUTLINING THE HISTORY OF THE CASE AND THE EXACT NATURE OF DEUTSCHE-TEXACO'S CLAIM. THIS WIIL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SARG THROUGH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS. IF THE SYRIANS DO NOT RESPOND IN AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF TIME, THE FRG AMBASSADOR WILL BE ASKED TO INQUIRE CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE SYRIAN CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.

3. NEITHER BOECKER NOR HENZE WERE AWARE OF IMADI'S STATEMENT (PARA. 2, REF B) THAT SYRIA WOULD SETTLE

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CONCORDIA CLAIM ON CONDITION THAT FRG RETURN TO SYRIA FOR FURTHER OIL EXPLORATIONS. BOTH HENZE AND DEUTSCHE-TEXACO OFFICIALS ACKNOWIEDGE THAT THERE IS LITTLE INTEREST, EITHER ON THE PART OF DEMINEX OR OTHER GERMAN OIL EXPLORATION FIRMS, IN EXPLORATION IN SYRIA.

4. DEUTSCHE-TEXACO WOULD PREFER THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT REMAIN A PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE THEY EXPECT LONG AND DIFFICULT BARGAINING AND WOULD BE FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF LOCATING KEY OFFICIALS IN DAMASCUS ON A PERMANENT BASIS IF THEY HAD TO CARRY THROUGH THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THEIR OWN. HENZE WOULD NOT COMMIT THE FRG TO THIS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME DID NOT REJECT SUCH A ROLE FOR THE FRG.

5. SINCE FRG DELEGATION WILL BE RETURNING TO DAMASCUS IN EARLY MARCH FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON AN INVEST-MENT AGREEMENT, DEUTSCHE-TEXACO PLANS TO CONTACT LEADER OF DELEGATION (OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS IN FOREIGN OFFICE). DEUTSCHE-TEXACO HOPES THAT THE FRG CAN PROVIDE THE WRITTEN MATERIAL MENTIONED PARA. 2 BEFORE DELEGATION ARRIVES, THEREBY PERHAPS INDUCING THE SARG TO BEGIN ACTION AT AN EARLY DATE.

6. ROLE OF THE USG. DEUTSCHE-TEXACO UNDERSTANDS FROM ITS WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS THAT USG WILL LIKELY DROP THIS CLAIM FROM THE LIST IT WILL PRESENT TO THE SARG. THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS, BUT FEEL THAT IT
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WOULD BE USEFUL TO THEIR CASE IF USG NOTED AT THE TIME IT PRESENTS ITS LIST THAT THE USG ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONCORDIA CLAIM AND HOPES THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SPEEDILY UNDERTAKEN. ECONMIN OFFICIAL AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO FRG POSITION.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE HAND OF BOTH DEUTSCHE-TEXACO AND THE FRG WILL BE STRENGTHENED IF THE U.S. INDICATES TO THE SARG OUR SUPPORT FOR THE CONCORDIA CLAIM (SEE REF C) WHEN WE PRESENT OUR REVISED CLAIM LIST. SINCE GERMAN DELEGATION WILL BE TRAVELLING TO SYRIA IN EARLY MARCH, EARLY ACTION MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.
STOESSEL

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